



High Altitude Mountain Environment Training Strategy (HAMETS)



The Lincoln National Forest is evaluating a Fort Bliss request to conduct helicopter flights at selected locations in the Sacramento Ranger District.

What we are here to discuss: High Altitude Mountain Environment Training Strategy (HAMETS) for Army helicopters to use selected landing zones within the Sacramento Ranger District of the Lincoln National Forest

What is HAMETS: Helicopter flight power management training at high altitudes within complex mountainous terrain and weather conditions

Why do we need HAMETS: Recent deployments saw need for training in high altitude operations using mountain pinnacles and confined areas. The Army experienced high accident rates with loss of equipment and life.



HAMETS in the Lincoln National For



Where: The Army conducts HAMETS on Fort Bliss & WSMR in mountainous areas.

Problem: Areas on Fort Bliss and WSMR are pinnacle landing sites, but lack elevations over 9,000 feet, and also lack sites confined by trees. There are no tall trees or mountain conditions such as snow cover/mountain winds to challenge aviators.



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Confined



We need areas with confined spaces



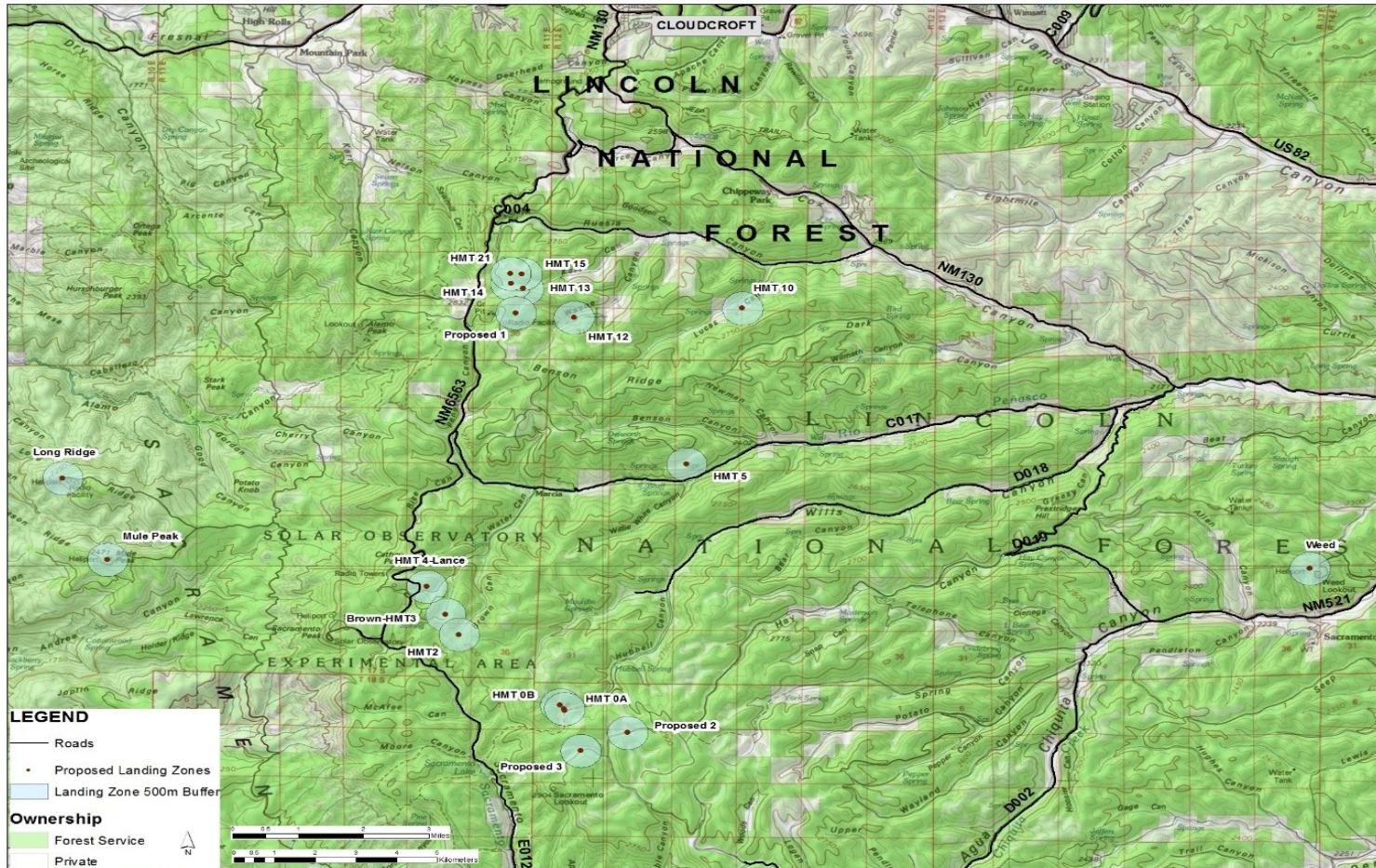
Location of HAMETS Landing Areas by Location



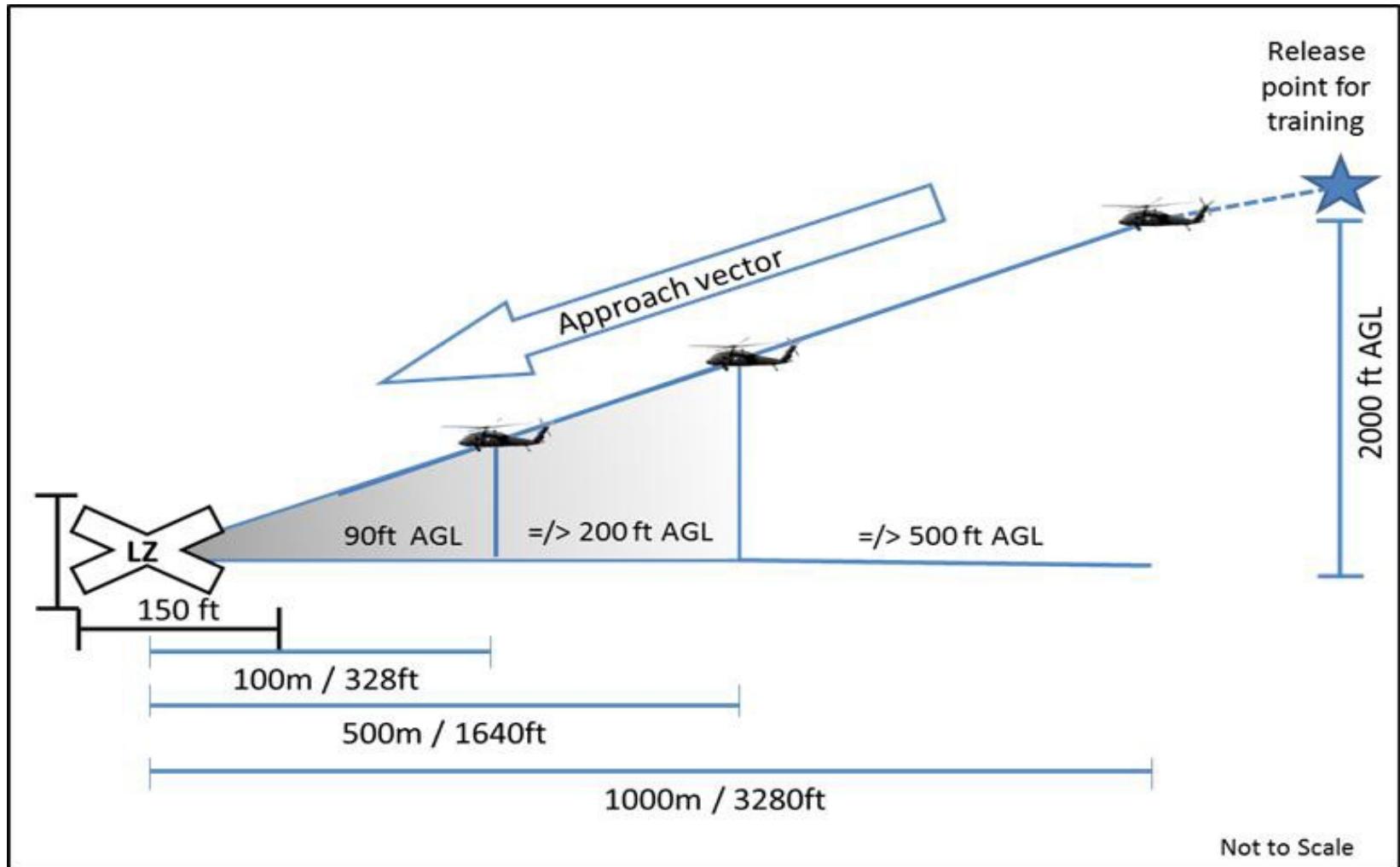
Elevation, ft	Location					
	Fort Bliss Including (TA 33) ¹		WSMR ¹		Lincoln NF ²	
Pinna cle	Confin ed	Pinna cle	Confin ed	Pinnac le	Confin ed	
9,000 to 9,499						13
8,500 to 8,999			1			
8,000 to 8,499	7				2	2
7,500 to 7,999	5		1		1	
7,000 to 7,499	3					
6,500 to 6,999	4					



Proposed HLZs in LNF



Flight Approach to Landing Zones (LZ) >500' AGL until within 500 m of LZ





Overview of Proposed Action



Special Use Permit from Forest Service to use designated Helicopter Landing Zones (HLZs) within the LNF.

- Use Alamogordo and TorC airports to more efficiently access HLZs in both the Lincoln National Forest as well as locations on Fort Bliss and WSMR
- 18 HLZs in LNF are proposed for use to provide variety of training situations, and lessen use on any one site
- LNF sites use would be conducted day and night, weekends avoided if possible
- Helicopters will be 500 to 2,000 ft AGL except within 500 meters of HLZs (0.31 miles), this area of flights below 500 ft AGL amounts to less than 1% of the Sacramento Ranger District, and less than 3% of the area at or above 8,000 ft.
- Environmental Analysis may lead to constraints in the use of some of the HLZs.



Next Step

Conduct an Environmental Assessment per National Environmental Policy Act to assess HAMETS impacts and inform the public.

- We are conducting scoping to invite the federal, state and local agencies, federally recognized tribes, local residents, and other interested parties to participate in the process to identify potential issues or concerns
- Start of scoping was announced via legal notice in the Alamogordo Daily News (19 June 2016). Scoping letters have also been sent to Lincoln National Forest Stakeholders. We announced this proposal at the Otero Co. Commission meeting on 19 May and at the Alamogordo City Commission on 24 May, 2016. Scoping ends on 20 July 2016.
- Although comments may be submitted and will be considered by the responsible official at any time prior to the decision being signed, only specific written comments (as defined in 36 CFR 218.2) received within 30 days following the publication on 19 June 2016 of the legal notice in the Alamogordo Daily News (by 20 July 2016) will provide the reviewer with the ability to object to the draft decision when it becomes available.
- Comments to the Draft Environmental Assessment will also be considered before any decision is made regarding implementing any of the proposed action alternatives. The Draft Environmental Assessment is expected to be published this fall and will have a 30-day comment period. A legal notice will again be published in the Alamogordo Daily News.



METS in the Lincoln National Forest



To Submit Comments:

southwestern-lincoln-sacramento@fs.fed.us

include the project title in the subject line; or
via mail, or in person to:

Travis Moseley, Forest Supervisor

c/o Ciara Cusack

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Cloudcroft, NM 88317

or fax to 575-682-3394